



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5008: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
HIGH PERFORMANCE GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTARY ADOPTION BY  
MUNICIPALITIES

Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner

March 5, 2020

---

Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Formica, Representative Ferraro and members of the Energy and Technology committee, I am writing to you all in strong support of House Bill 5008: *An Act Concerning the Establishment of High Performance Green Building Standards for Voluntary Adoption by Municipalities*.

As a member of the Governor's Council on Climate Change, the Department of Housing (DOH) is committed to the State of Connecticut's goal of fighting climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030. In order to meet this goal for the state, emissions from the building sector must be reduced by 34% by 2030.

The State is already leading by example with the adoption and implementation of high performance building standards that increase energy efficiency. House Bill 5008 allows municipalities to join the State in adopting those codes, should they choose to do so.

Our agency's mission is to ensure that everyone has access to quality housing opportunities and options through the State of Connecticut. Quality housing means housing that keeps energy bills low for our communities who are the most vulnerable to high energy costs and the impacts of climate change. Adopting high performance building codes at the municipal level can help us achieve the standard of everyone having equitable access to energy efficient homes.

Lastly, DOH utilizes Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's (CHFA) Multifamily design and construction and sustainability standards. In general and as currently written, the CHFA Multifamily Design, Construction and Sustainability Standards and Guidelines are based on Energy Star requirements which are designed to be approximately 15% better than current building codes regarding energy efficiency. The proposed stretch code would likely improve upon the efficiency of the IECC provisions by 10%, similar to the stretch codes in New York and Massachusetts. Therefore, in general terms, it's reasonable to state our standards would be in-line with or exceed the proposed stretch code. Thus, there would be limited (if any) cost impact on any state-financed affordable housing.

DOH looks forward to engaging with the committee, the Governor's office, DEEP, and other agencies and stakeholders on the continuing development of this proposal and in its effective implementation upon passage.